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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §  
Stephen R. Dohm § Group Art Unit: 3677  
Serial No.: 10/050,243 §  
Filed: January 16, 2002 §  
For: INTERNALLY THREADED §  
FASTENER AND STEMMED §  
WASHER ASSEMBLY §  
Examiner: Saether, Flemming  
Atty. Docket: ITWO:0026/YOD  
(13411-70)

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION OR MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8	
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December 9, 2004	
Date	Tait R. Swanson

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON AUGUST 19, 2004**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 19, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and remarks. Applicant also submits that the finality of the present Office Action is improper and should be removed as agreed during a previous Examiner interview. Specifically, the present Office Action was a first Office action following a Request for Continued Examination accompanying an Amendment and Response. This Office Action presented new art and new grounds of rejection and, thus, should not have been made final. In addition, as discussed in detail below, the Applicant stresses that the Examiner's proposed combination of references is improper, because it *changes the principle of operation* and renders the features of the cited references *inoperative for their intended purposes*. See M.P.E.P. §§ 2143.01 and 2145.